

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-11, and 13 remain in the application. Claim 1 is amended by incorporating therein the limitations of Claims 5 and 7, which are accordingly canceled. The dependency of Claim 6 is appropriately amended. Claim 8 is amended by incorporating therein the limitations of Claims 12 and 14, which are accordingly canceled. The dependency of Claim 13 is appropriately amended.

Applicants appreciate that the Information Disclosure Statement has been considered and that the drawings are accepted. Applicants have reviewed the specification and are unaware of any errors.

Applicants are aware of their obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claims that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wagner (U.S. Patent 4,474,424) in view of Zhang et al (U.S. Patent 6,108,471). Claim 5 is canceled.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the limitations of Claims 5 and 7, in light of the Examiner's indication of the allowability of such a claim. The rejection is thereby considered to be obviated.

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 1-4 and 6, as amended, under 5 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wagner in view of Zhang et al is respectfully requested.

Claims 8-13 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wagner, *supra*, in view of Zhang et al, *supra*, in view of Takashashi (U.S. Patent 6,563,987). Claim 12 is canceled.

Applicants have amended Claim 8 to include the limitations of Claims 12 and 14, in light of the Examiner's indication of the allowability of such a claim. The rejection is thereby considered to be obviated.

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 8-11 and 13, as amended, under 5 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wagner in view of Zhang et al and further in view of Takashashi is respectfully requested.

The Examiner indicates that Claims 7 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 7 depended from Claim 5, which depended from Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claims

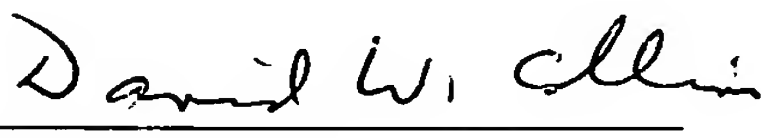
5 and 7. Similarly, Claim 14 depended from Claim 12, which depended from Claim 8. Claim 8 has been amended to include the limitations of Claims 12 and 14. Applicants have no comment on the reasons given by the Examiner for the allowability of such claims.

Applicants submit that the claims, as amended, place the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to take such action. If the Examiner has any questions, she is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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